

first festival was held there in 1876. Wagner composed his last work, the opera *Parisfal* (1882), especially to be performed in this theater.

Wagner's Philosophy. Wagner tried to find a new way of combining music and drama in the theater. He believed the basic error in opera was that music had become the sole end. Drama served merely as an excuse for the music. Wagner aimed at a work in which all the various elements in operatic composition were in perfect harmony and directed toward a single artistic end.

Wagner considered the orchestra the greatest artistic achievement of his time, and wanted to take greater advantage of its expressive possibilities. Wagner did not think the orchestra should accompany a vocal line with repeated chords like a "monstrous guitar." He believed it could be given a more elaborate musical texture in which the vocal line would be one independent strand. His use of recurrent motives permitted continuous music throughout an act, with no breaks or applause until the end. Wagner disliked "operatic" acting, and insisted that singers use only those movements and gestures required by the music.

Wagner waged one of the hardest battles ever fought in the cause of artistic freedom. His stormy and debt-ridden career forced many people to realize that creative artists deserve their support. Wagner's works were a dominant force in Western culture until World War I. He ranks with Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven as one of the world's greatest composers.

ROBERT BAILEY

See also OPERA; RING OF THE NIBELUNG, THE.

WAGNER, WAG nuhr, ROBERT FERDINAND (1877-1953), an American statesman, served in the New York legislature and showed special interest in welfare ques-

tions. He was justice of the Supreme Court of New York from 1919 to 1926, and from then until 1949 served as a United States Senator from New York. A Democrat, he introduced the National Labor Relations Act, or "Wagner Act," the National Industrial Recovery Act, the Social Security Act, and the U.S. Housing Act of 1937. He was born in Nastatten, near Wiesbaden, Germany. His son, Robert F. Wagner, Jr. (1910-), was mayor of New York City from 1954 to 1965.

HARVEY WISH

WAGNER ACT. See NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT.

WAGNER VON JAUREGG, JULIUS. See FEVER; NOBEL PRIZES (table: Nobel Prizes in Physiology or Medicine—1927).

WAGON. The wheel and the wagon developed at the same time. This was at least 5,000 years ago, when people first found that they could pull sledges more easily if they had them fitted with wheels that were solid pieces of wood. The Egyptians were among the earliest people to use wagons. The Scythians wandered over the plains of southeastern Europe as early as 700 B.C., carrying their possessions on two-wheeled carts covered with reeds. The Greeks and the Romans developed chariots which were lighter and faster than those of the Egyptians. The four-wheeled coach was developed in Germany during the Middle Ages.

English governors of American colonies introduced the first wagons in North America. Stagecoaches began to run over colonial roads about the time of George Washington. The *prairie schooner* (covered wagon), which was first built by the German farmers of Pennsyl-

Some Kinds of Wagons



Detail of the Bayeux Tapestry (1000's-1100's); Bayeux Museum, Bayeux, France (Giraudon)

A Wagon of the Middle Ages was used to carry weapons into battle.



Brown Brothers

The Conestoga Wagon carried pioneers westward over the Allegheny Mountains from the late 1700's until about 1850. It was drawn by a team of four to six horses.



Brown Brothers

The New England Buckboard Wagon was a popular American carriage of the early 1900's. These open wagons were used for short business and pleasure trips.



Brown Brothers

A Horse-Drawn Delivery Wagon was a common sight during the early 1900's.